

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2002

Contact: Roy Stearns

(916) 654-7538

Kick off Summer in California State Parks

Summer is almost here and the best place to kick off the season is in a California State Park. Throughout the state, parks are gearing up for visitors from all over the world who will discover the natural and cultural beauty – and recreational opportunities – in California State Parks.

And visiting a California State Park is a bargain. A number of the parks charge no entrance fee.

Here are some ideas for summer fun:

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- Candlestick Point State Recreation Area offers a great view of San Francisco Bay – and areas for family and friend barbecues and picnics as well as opportunities for fishing and windsurfing. The park is located east of Highway 101 via the exit to 3Com stadium. The park phone number is (415) 671-0145.
- Burleigh H. Murray Ranch is a great "hidden gem," which offers hiking, birdwatching, and historic sites. The park is on the southern tip of Half Moon Bay; take Higgins-Purissima Road to the park. The phone number for more information is (650) 726-8820.
- Montara State Beach features Montara Mountain, with excellent hiking and ocean views. The beach is located eight miles north of Half Moon Bay on Highway One. The phone number for more information is (650) 726-8820.
- Gray Whale Cove State Beach is a great place for kite flying and sunbathing. The park is nine miles north of Half Moon Bay on Highway One. For more information call (650) 726-8820.
- Mount Diablo State Park is also a great destination close to the San Francisco metropolitan area. Even though summer is a slower season (there are sometimes park closures due to fire danger), the park offers camping, picnicking, hiking, views, a

museum and a visitor center. The park is five miles east of I-680 on Diablo Road in Danville. The park phone number is (925) 837-2525.

- At Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park the lighthouse is currently closed for structural reasons, but there are still tours of the grounds and excellent ocean views. The park is located on Highway One on Pigeon Point Road, approximately 30 miles north of Santa Cruz. The park phone number is (650) 879-2120. There is a charge for tours.
- Pescadero State Beach and marsh offers a great place to enjoy the outdoors and, if you're lucky, see some of the wildlife that lives in the area, including blue heron, deer, raccoons and foxes. The beach is located 14.5 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Highway One. The park phone number is (650) 879-2170.
- Butano State Park features redwoods, hiking and camping. The park is seven miles south of Pescadero on Cloverdale Road. The park phone number is (650) 879-2040.
- Año Nuevo State Reserve is the home of a large colony of northern elephant seals. Although summer is off-season, visitors may have the opportunity to see some of the park's striking inhabitants. The park also offers magnificent vistas of the shoreline and the Santa Cruz Mountains. The park is 27 miles south of Half Moon Bay on Highway One. The park phone number is (650) 879-0227 or (650) 879-2025.

For more information about California State Parks, go on-line to: www.parks.ca.gov

#